

SITUATION REPORT NO. 2
INCIDENT NO. 2005-138
DATE: November 30, 2005 Time: 5:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Winter Storm** – A winter storm with snow, freezing rain and high winds moved through portions of North Dakota on November 27-30, 2005, disrupting electrical power and bringing transportation to a stand-still.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** In addition to previous reports, Richland County reports two children were treated for carbon monoxide exposure in the city of Fairmount. In Sargent County two individuals were injured by slipping on ice.
3. **DAMAGES:** On November 30, the National Weather Service (NWS) reported a weather disturbance is moving across the region today and this evening. The disturbance will bring light snow with accumulations from a dusting to less than one inch. Travelers should be alert for some slippery spots on the roads. Portions of north central North Dakota, northwest North Dakota, south central North Dakota, southeast North Dakota and southwest North Dakota will be affected.

Rural Electric Cooperatives (REC)

Although the RECs continue to restore power and assess damages, the extent of all damages is still unknown. REC officials have provided the following updates:

Ottertail Power Company - On November 30, Ottertail Power officials reported approximately 5,000 customers in their service corridor are still without power. This is down from 7,500 customers on November 29. Ottertail Power has considered doing rolling outages but as of right now customers have been asked to conserve energy.

Cass County Electric - As of November 30, Cass County Electric reported 300 customers are still without power. Two hundred to 250 customers are expected to have power restored by the evening of November 30. A total of 20,000 customers were without power due to the storm. Most of those were down for less than an hour. Approximately 2,000 customers have been without power since early November 28.

The remaining customers are expected to have power back by December 1. The affected rural customers still without power are in the following areas: Colfax, west of Horace, near Gardner, and west of Argusville. Cass County Electric reported a total of 10 substations down at the height of the incident- six of these were out for less than one hour and the remaining four were out for several hours. All substations have been restored. Crews have experienced difficulties in restoring power due to road conditions and weather.

Dakota Valley Electric - One thousand-one hundred customers remain without power. A total of 2,200 customers were without power due to the storm. Three hundred power poles remain downed out of 400 power poles. One substation is out of service impacting the Tyler area near Fairmount. This area is not expected to regain power until December 2 or 3. Rural customers in the Milnor, Mooreton, Hankinson, Wahpeton, Fairmount, and Wyndmere areas are expected to be back online by December 3 or 4. Five RECs, with up to seventy linemen, are working to get power restored for this area as quickly as possible, but are experiencing difficulties due to weather and a shortage of available labor.

Northern Plains Electric - Damage was not substantial in their service area. Only a few customers were without power, and all have been restored. No power lines or poles were knocked down. Northern Plains Electric has sent crews to assist Dakota Valley Electric to restore power.

Ransom County

The 53 customers of Dakota Valley Electric had their power and telephone service restored between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., November 29.

Sargent County

On November 30, the Emergency Manager reported outages of electricity, phone service, and water for rural residents. Road surfaces are completely covered with ice making travel on state, county, city, and township roads dangerous. Power and telephone lines are snapping and arching as ice breaks and falls off.

4. **RESOURCES:**

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTION:** In Sargent County the Milnor Lutheran Church WELCA Group is operating a shelter in Milnor. The Gwinner Fire Department is operating a shelter in Gwinner. Residents are volunteering generators and homes to those that don't have electricity and neighbors are helping neighbors.

6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:** Governor John Hoeven toured Richland and Sargent Counties November 30, visiting local communities and assessing damages resulting from the recent severe winter storm activity. Governor Hoeven also met

with local officials in Fairmount, Hankinson and Lidgerwood to discuss recovery strategies.

Cass County

On November 30, the Emergency Manager reported all power in the county had been restored as of 10:00 p.m. November 29.

Ransom County

On November 30, the County Commission signed an emergency declaration.

Richland County

On November 30, the Emergency Manager reported the electric supplier restored power to the city of Mantador. The city of Great Bend had their power restored on the afternoon of November 29. Three miles of power lines are down that serve the city of Galchutt. The citizens are residing with friends and relatives or have homes powered by generators. Ottertail Electric planned to supply power to Fairmount from the east. After discovering 16 downed power poles, they are now running power from Wahpeton to Fairmount which is a longer distance. The electric company is attempting to have power fully restored to Fairmount by December 2.

The N.D. National Guard (NDNG) is providing the city of Fairmount with one-15 KW and two-5 KW generators. Two NDNG soldiers are providing service support for the generators.

The NDNG is providing the city of Hankinson with six-3 KW generators. Two NDNG soldiers are providing service support for the generators.

Public Service Announcements are being relayed to the citizens of the county in regards to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Sargent County

On November 29, the County Commission signed an emergency declaration.

A Lisbon radio station, KQLX, continues to promote public safety information by providing a toll free state phone number (800-472-2121), the local telephone emergency information numbers, and the recruiting of homes and generators for Ransom and Sargent Counties. They are also providing timely updates for the public regarding the progress of electric line repairs.

7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED:** The city of Fairmount requested one-12.5 KW generator from the NDNG to connect with Ottertail Power transmission lines and provide power to the city. The city of Fairmount is also requesting N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) assistance in sanding city streets.

The city of Lidgerwood requested NDDOT assistance with snow removal for Main Street, N.D. Highway 11 and N.D. Highway 18.

The city of Hankinson is requesting a generator to run the city's lift station. The NDNG is communicating with city officials to ensure proper size to meet their power needs.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No additional outside help has been requested.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/des>.

Susan Reinertson, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security